

MINUTES CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP
NEW JERSEY

THIS IS A CONFERENCE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD AT CITY HALL, 29 NORTH DAY STREET, ORANGE, NEW JERSEY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026 AT 7:01PM.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmember Kerry J. Coley, East Ward
Councilmember Tency A. Eason, North Ward
Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert, West Ward (*Arrived at 7:10pm*)
Council Vice President Weldon M. Montague, III, At-Large
Councilmember Clifford R. Ross, At-Large
Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, South Ward
Council President Adrienne K. Wooten, At-Large

Also Present: Trisha A. Scipio, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Derrick Brown, Fire Chief
Brian Mooney, Police Chief
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq. City Attorney
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer

The Deputy Clerk announced a Moment of Silence. Especially because February is Black History Month, Councilmember Tency A. Eason dedicated this moment to the legacy of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. Council President Adrienne K. Wooten added the lost lives of black men and women for various reasons.

The Deputy Clerk announced a "SPECIAL NOTICE: Please be apprised anyone wishing to discuss Agenda or General Items shall raise their hand during Citizens Comments and will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to interact with the Council.

The Deputy Clerk announced that the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:4-9 et. seq., "Sunshine Law" has been met. A notice of this meeting was, sent to the Star Ledger and published in the Record Transcript on Thursday, July 10, 2025, posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall, the Council's website (www.orangetwpnjcc.org), the City's website (www.orangenj.gov) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Health Department - Health Officer Vincent DeFilippo provided an update on current public health matters, including measles statistics, respiratory virus trends, TB, and COVID-19 case numbers. He expressed concern about the potential public health impact of large international events such as the upcoming World Cup, noting that increased global travel could contribute to the spread of communicable diseases. He also announced several upcoming community health initiatives. The Mammogram Truck will be available to residents, and appointments can be scheduled by calling 973-952-6083. In addition, a children's vaccine clinic will be held at Orange Park; residents may call the same number for details and to schedule appointments. He reminded the public that March 31st is the final day to receive a flu vaccination for the current season. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross inquired about grant funding the department has received and any anticipated future grants. He also asked whether adults could receive the measles vaccine at the children's clinic. It was clarified that the clinic is limited to pediatric vaccinations and does not provide measles vaccines to adults.

Fire Department - Fire Chief Derrick Brown updated Councilmembers on two recent fires. The first occurred at 394 Park Avenue and was caused by a space heater being used in an apartment that did not have adequate heat. The second incident, at 639 Scotland Road, involved a property operating without the required permits. Chief Brown addressed ongoing concerns regarding multi-dwelling properties and emphasized the importance of renters obtaining renters insurance to protect their personal property in the event of a fire or other emergency. He left information on Fire Safety in the Hall. Councilmembers discussed strategies to better educate residents about renters insurance, building codes, and penalties for landlords who fail to meet required standards and provide essential services. The Council will request Department Chair and Building Official to address South Essex.

Police Department - Police Chief Brian Mooney provided an update on crime statistics, noting that the current figures reflect a rollover from 2025 data. He discussed concerns related to overnight permit parking and explained that snow removal operations often require additional police coverage and coordination. Chief Mooney also warned residents about recent break-ins involving offenders stealing key fobs in order to take vehicles. He highlighted ongoing departmental training initiatives aimed at improving response times and operational efficiency. Additionally, he addressed the impact of speed bumps on police vehicles and emergency response. The next Police Community Council (PCC) meeting is scheduled for March 5th.

The Deputy Clerk announced that the resolutions and ordinances to be presented at tonight's meeting are listed on the attached Regular Meeting Agenda. If any Council Member wishes to discuss any resolution or ordinance, it may be discussed at this time.

ORDINANCE

1-2026 An ordinance of the Municipal Council of the City of Orange Township, Essex County, amending Chapter 98 of the Municipal Code of the City of Orange Township, entitled "Food Handling Establishments".

Council Vice President Weldon M. Montague, III asked for an explanation as the new fees were not included. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk stated this ordinance would be Pulled by Administration.

RESOLUTIONS

***106-2026 A resolution for the transfer of appropriation reserves.**

***107-2026 A resolution for emergency temporary appropriations #2 to the calendar year 2026 budget.**

Council Vice President Weldon M. Montague, III, requested clarification regarding Resolutions 106-2026 and 107-2026. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk provided an explanation of how transfers of appropriations are processed and administered.

***108-2026 A resolution authorizing a contract with PFK O'Connor Davies, LLP to serve as municipal auditors, perform calendar year 2025 audit, and to assist with, along with ancillary accounting services related to debt issuances in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00.**

Councilmember Clifford R. Ross inquired if this amount was increased from 2025 which it has not.

***126-2026 A resolution to contract live poetry services through Elijah Brown/Let It Flow for the facilitation of 2026 monthly poetry events for an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.**

Councilmember Clifford R. Ross expressed opposition to the resolution, stating that the City could potentially engage local college students to provide poetry services at no cost. He emphasized the importance of exercising fiscal responsibility and being mindful of expenditures, particularly for items he does not consider essential.

RESOLUTIONS continued

***118-2026** A resolution **Qualifying Vendors in Fair and Open Manner for Special Counsel Services on an as needed basis for a period of one (1) year from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026** Councilmember *Quantavia L. Hilbert* inquired whether three attorneys would be representing the Clerk's Office. Business Administrator *Chris Hartwyk* clarified that the resolution merely identified the qualified vendors who submitted Requests for Proposals (RFPs) in a fair and open process to provide Special Counsel Services for Election Matters to the Clerk's Office.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson and seconded by Council Vice President Weldon M. Montague, III.

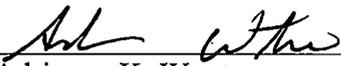
Motion Adopted

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Approved: March 3, 2026



Trisha A. Scipio
Deputy Municipal Clerk



Adrienne K. Wooten
Council President